



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1994/107
4 February 1994

ENGLISH
Original: ENGLISH/RUSSIAN

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fiftieth session
Item 18 of the provisional agenda

RIGHTS OF PERSONS BELONGING TO NATIONAL OR ETHNIC,
RELIGIOUS AND LINGUISTIC MINORITIES

Letter dated 24 January 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires
of the Russian Federation to the United Nations Office
at Geneva addressed to the Director-General of the
United Nations Office at Geneva

I have the honour to transmit herewith an address by Mr. Andrei Kozyrev, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, related to human rights of the Russian-speaking population in Latvia. The Minister expresses his particular concern at Latvia's new Law on local governing bodies which is of a discriminatory character on a purely ethnic basis with respect to several hundred thousand Russian-speaking people. The Russian side considers this Law as another evidence of aggressive nationalism threatening Latvia itself both with social tension and possible confrontation with neighbouring countries. The Minister believes that in such a serious situation the mechanism of preventive diplomacy must be used more actively to avoid unpredictable consequences.

I kindly ask you, Mr. Director-General, to issue the enclosed paper as an official document of the fiftieth session of the Commission on Human Rights under agenda item 18 "Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities".

(Signed): Valery LOCHTCHININE
Deputy Permanent Representative

ADDRESS

by Mr. A.V. Kozyrev, Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Russian Federation, to the ministers for
foreign affairs of the CSCE countries and
directors of international organizations

Distinguished colleague,

The entire world has recently heard a ringing statement by the Presidents of Russia and the United States of America calling for the observance of the fundamental rights and basic freedoms of the individual as an essential condition for the maintenance of good relations between countries and the strengthening of stability and security worldwide.

This statement is all the more timely since, as the facts show, such an approach is a long way from being shared by everyone. Against the background of the latest provocation in Riga, directed at some Russian officers, the Saeime of the Republic of Latvia, ignoring international opinion and CSCE and CE recommendations, has "on the quiet" passed the most recent piece of legislation infringing the rights of several hundred thousand residents of the Republic - a law on municipal, regional and district council elections which gives the right to vote only to "100 per cent" citizens. Over a third of the country's permanent residents, many of whom were born and have been living in this land for decades, are deprived by the law of the appropriate means to express their will even at the local government level. Denial of the political rights of these people is thus being elevated to the rank of law of Latvia.

Furthermore, this law contains elements which may be said to constitute discrimination on ethnic grounds.

The international community once again has an opportunity to satisfy itself as to the validity of Russia's repeated warnings about the pernicious consequences of aggressive nationalism. Behind a screen of declarations concerning the "threat to the survival of the indigenous nation" and of promises to foster a dialogue between the ethnic communities, encouragement is being given to a political extremism that is capable of leading Latvia into the blind alley of inter-ethnic conflict and social tension, bringing about confrontation with neighbouring States and affecting stability in Europe.

I should like to emphasize in this connection that, despite the clear opposition of the Latvian authorities, the Russian side will continue as before, within the framework of generally recognized international standards and rules, to do everything possible to protect the rights of ethnic Russians in Latvia. All responsibility for the consequences of the passage of the discriminatory law, including the consequences for Russian-Latvian relations, lies with the leadership of the Republic of Latvia and its Parliament.

The law on local government elections is, at the same time, quite clearly a kind of "exploratory step" designed to test the practicability of a policy of ousting the non-indigenous population from Latvia and making it a mono-ethnic State. Coming next is a bill on citizenship which, if approved

in its present form, may reinforce discrimination affecting the rights of the Russian-speaking population in the long term and have consequences that would be difficult to predict.

In this situation the relevant international organizations and the world human rights movement have a duty to speak out and the machinery of preventive diplomacy must be used more actively to stop Latvia from sliding towards conflict.

I trust that, given the seriousness of the situation, you will be able to use your authority and influence in the interests of safeguarding fundamental human rights in Latvia and, ultimately, throughout Europe.

A. KOZYREV

22 January 1994



Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1994/108
9 February 1994

ENGLISH
Original: ARABIC

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fiftieth session
Item 15 of the provisional agenda

STATUS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COVENANTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Note verbale dated 28 December 1993 from the Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights

The Permanent Mission of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya to the United Nations Office at Geneva has the honour to request that documents S/24961 and Add.1, S/24428 and S/26139 of the Security Council and A/48/L.32 ¹/ relating to the adverse consequences for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya of the implementation of Security Council resolution 748 (1992), at the humanitarian level and for the development of the country should be circulated as official documents of the session of the Commission on Human Rights to be held from 31 January to 11 March 1994, under item 15, entitled "Status of the International Covenants on Human Rights".

As you are aware, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, as a member State of the Commission on Human Rights has always shown understanding and a desire to cooperate in respect of the objectives defined by the United Nations and by the Commission on Human Rights, particularly since it is deeply committed to the fundamental and legitimate rights of all human beings in all regions of

¹/ These documents are available for consultation at the documents counter at Door 40.

the world. It has also extended its support to many peoples and has sided with them in their efforts to be able to live in peace and dignity. Despite that, following the adoption of the aforementioned Security Council resolution, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya is currently confronted with the obvious adverse consequences resulting from the embargo imposed on the Libyan people in its entirety. All spheres of daily life are affected, including the supplying of foodstuffs and medicines, a situation which clearly affects all the aid and protection programmes intended for children, mothers, disabled persons and elderly persons. This operation may be considered to contravene all the international human rights conventions, obligations and principles. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya objects to any attempt to undermine the fundamental rights of the Libyan people, including the right to life, to adequate food, to health, to freedom of movement and to all the other recognized fundamental rights.

By addressing one of the competent organs of the United Nations, we wish to draw the attention of its members and of its committees to the situation.

We hope that you will continue to express your solidarity in the context of respect for human rights, that you will strive to mitigate the harmful effects of the embargo, that you will remove the coercive measures imposed upon us and that you will refrain from adopting further measures likely to inflict further harm on our people.



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1994/109
9 February 1994

ENGLISH
Original: SPANISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fiftieth session
Item 19 of the provisional agenda

ADVISORY SERVICES IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Note by the secretariat

In a letter dated 24 January 1994, the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations Office at Geneva asked for the publication entitled "Human Rights and Overcoming Violence in Colombia" to be distributed. The publication will be made available in English, French and Spanish during the fiftieth session of the Commission on Human Rights.
